

Using a Mover?

The big truths you need to know



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Using a mover issues

The 1st big truth in moving... Movers will not move everything you own.

Movers will not move Hazardous materials (HazMat).

- Hazardous items can pose a potential threat to the health and safety of the movers and haulers and are not allowed to be packed. If you are moving international, there are even additional items which cannot be shipped (like certain medications, seeds/plants, wine, and liquor).
- Most of the items on this list are considered Hazmat and cannot be disposed of in the regular trash.
 - Take note one of the type of items which will have the most impact are aerosol cans. Take a look around your house. Besides cleaners, this category includes: air fresheners, cooking sprays, craft spray paints, deodorant, Electronic compressed air, first aid sprays, hair sprays, insect and mosquito sprays, ironing starch, washing spot treatment, and sun protection/tanning sprays.
 - If you decide to dispose of these items prior to moving, you will need to contact your local county for places to dispose as these hazardous items. Certain counties, like Elbert County, don't have a capability to dispose of HazMat items, but Douglas County will help in certain instances.
- If you have questions or are unsure of any specific items, you should contact your moving company coordinator. There are some items which may be permitted with proper packaging and labeling.



Specific forbidden Items:

- Aerosol cans “of any type”
- Ammonia
- Ammunition or gun reloading supplies
- Batteries, car
- Batteries, household
- Charcoal
- Charcoal lighter fluid
- Chemistry sets
- Cleaning solvents
- Chemicals, darkroom
- Chemicals, pool
- Chemicals, yard & garden
 - Fertilizer
 - Pesticides
 - Poisons
 - Weed killer
- Fire extinguishers
- Fireworks
- Flammable, corrosive, or explosive items
- Fuels, gasoline, kerosene, or sterno
- Guns, loaded
- Liquid bleach
- Matches
- Nail polish
- Nail polish remover
- Oil, lamp
- Oil, motor
- Paint thinners
- Paints and varnishes
- Perishable items
 - Food without adequate preservation
 - Frozen food
 - Produce
 - Refrigerated foods
 - Pets
 - Plants
- Rubbing alcohol
- Tanks, propane
- Tanks, scuba

The 2nd big truth in moving... Moving is expensive, so get rid of as much as possible

- There are some items not worth their weight to move. Consider getting rid of or selling heavy items.
 - Exercise equipment you never use.
 - Garage items
 - Furniture you really don't like
 - Old heavy television sets.
 - Can goods
 - Do you have particle board cabinets? These are cheaper to buy at the other end, and they will probably not survive the move anyway. Moving companies will not give you full price if they are damaged.
- You should plan ahead on what you are going to do with items the mover will not ship. How will you physically get rid of them? Will you move them yourself?
 - Will you transport items in your vehicle during the move? When I moved across country, I hauled my pets, plants, personal collectables, jewelry, and all the restricted items the movers would not move because I had space in my vehicle.
 - Family and friends will be willing to accept many items (especially food, wine and booze).
 - Most food will be accepted by your local food banks.
 - Ammunition can sometimes be donated to the local police department for training or the Boy Scouts.
 - Some local charities will accept cleaners and personal hygiene products.



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The 3rd big truth in moving... You don't want movers to move everything you own.

The items you don't want movers to move

- Movers have insurance to cover damage and loss (including high value items), and they will probably do a good job with your electronics, artwork, and figurines, but there are probably things you own which have a strong sentimental value and are irreplaceable in your heart, or just very very expensive. You should consider finding an alternate way to transport these items.
 - Jewelry
 - Coin Collections
 - Guns
 - Irreplaceable items
 - Pets (they will hide in moving boxes and within furniture). Make sure you have a pet plan to protect them and keep them under control. Remember the doors of the house will be open all day on moving.
 - Trash (some packers will pack your trashcan with trash in it, so watch for this)
 - You may have additional vehicles, RVs, ATVs, or boats. You might consider hiring a friend's college kid (who could use the quick job) to drive to your destination and fly them back instead of having expensive movers deal with these items (remember they ship by weight).

The items you will be traveling with

- The movers will show up with a specialized team and there will be a frenzy of packing. Be organized ahead of time.
- Very, very important.... Pre-pack your car. Identifying all items you will need during your traveling and leaving them in one room, or in the garage is not enough. I had one client who was moving out of state and didn't pre-pack their car. They had to leave a lot of clothing, boots, shoes, sentimental items, and personal care products because they would not fit in their cars. It's better to have the movers' load these items then give them to donation because they don't fit in your vehicle. The rest of the horror story is located below.
- Have a pet plan. Ask your neighbors to watch them or put them in a kennel to keep them safe. The last thing you want to do is spend hours looking for your pet because the house door was left open all day, and they went out and hid because of all the activity.
- It will be expensive, embarrassing, and time consuming to open packed boxes to find items (like keys and items you need for closing) after they are loaded on the moving truck. Pre-pack these items in your vehicle:
 - Car and all additional necessary keys
 - Clothing and shoes
 - Cosmetics and personal care products
 - Extremely personal items (explicit photographs, personal entertainment, or relaxation items)
 - Financial, insurance, and lending documents (including military for VA) for buying and closing on your new and old house, including credit cards, checkbooks and extra checks.
 - Medications you will need for traveling
 - Identification, medical, insurance, organizational membership cards, and passports
 - Items you will be leaving with the buyers (warranties, remotes, extra keys, etc). Put them in the house after the packers, or tape them in a drawer/small cabinet labeled "do not pack".
 - Items you will be transporting yourself (high value/sentimental, snacks, cooler, plants, and pets)
 - Personal electronics/computers and don't forget copies of backed up files.
 - Pets and pet care products
 - Purses, wallets, money, and suitcases you will be using
 - Vehicle registrations.

The 4th big truth about moving – Mover’s insurance is very limited.

Liability problems

- When movers pack up boxes and furniture, they fill out an inventory and condition form. If there is a chip, scratch, or anything indicates it is not totally straight out of the package new, they will annotate it as “used”. If they damage/lose a table, during the move, you will not get full replacement. One of my last moves, they lost the box which contained all the kitchen utensils (flippers, slotted spoons, ladles, strainers, all types of cutting knives, silverware, and my pots and pans). I got 45% of the new value. I was really surprised at how expensive these couple of drawers and one cabinet cost to replace.
- Typically the mover will not insure any boxes they didn’t pack. It is common for the seller to start packing boxes in order to reduce the holdings in the house. It will reduce the moving costs, but will also increase your liability.

Plan ahead and make your move simpler.

- Pre-Identify:
 - What is being moved by the mover
 - What is being moved by you
 - What is being donated and given away
 - What is being sold
 - What is being trashed
- Plan your timeline for getting these accomplished prior to the movers showing up and way before closing. These are things you don’t want to do the day of closing.

The 5th big truth about moving – You have to tell the world you are moving (or so it seems).

Change of address

- You have to let lots of people and organizations know you are moving. It doesn’t matter if you are getting ready to sell or buy a house. There are many items you need to take care, and many of these can be accomplished prior to closing, and some have to wait till you own the house or get a new address. People use to get packs of change of address cards, but these have been replaced by the internet. Don’t forget to including companies which have auto payments. Some of the things you need to remember are:
 - Transfer of some house-related services/utilities: electrical, gas, HOA, propane, solar, and water.
 - Turn off of some house-related items: cable/satellite, internet, and telephone.
 - Banks/investments/stocks/bonds.
 - County records for other properties.
 - Credit cards (don’t forget auto payments).
 - Driver’s License and vehicle registrations/plates.
 - Family/friends.
 - Hunting licenses/CCW permit.
 - Insurance (home and vehicles).
 - Membership in your associations/clubs/gyms/
 - Newspaper/periodicals.
 - Post office mail (They will forward for 6 months, but this can be extended another 6 months).
 - Professional licenses and permits.

The 6th big truth about moving – Things will be forgotten.

Seller:

- Did you complete all the house closing items?
 - Did you complete all the agreed to repair Inspection items and the receipts you need to provide the buyer?
 - Chimney swept, septic inspection/cleanout, propane, pre-pack your car.
- You should be physically clear of the house prior to going to the closing (unless you have a post occupancy agreement). Once the closing is completed, the buyers own the house and have the right to move in furniture.
 - Do you have a Plan B? – Don't become the seller horror story. I had a seller who was moving across country. Her mover cancelled the day of the move, which was the day prior to closing. She found another company which could load the morning of the closing. We changed the closing time from 11:00 to 4:00. The movers were still there at 3:30 when we left to go to the closing. The new movers were able to complete loading while we were closing.
 - The horror story actually began after closing because my sellers hadn't pre-loaded anything into their vehicles (2 small cars, 2 large women, and 2 large dogs). They found out they couldn't fit everything they were going to take in their vehicles. They went out and bought roof top carriers for their cars, but these wasn't enough. My wife brought our 4' x 8' trailer; and we not only loaded the trailer, but my wife's SUV, and my pickup truck with items to be taken to Goodwill/Salvation Army for donation. The seller didn't actually leave the house until 9:00, and the buyers were trying to move their furniture into their new house as they were going to sleep there. Those two small cars were severely overloaded. The buyers were very understanding and accommodating. They could have charged the seller the daily fee as stipulated in the contract for not being out of the house at closing.

Buyer:

- You should have a back-up plan for you (and your pets) to have a place to sleep if the deal falls through at the last moment. The house is not yours until closing. Many things can delay closings like funding delay issues, Closing being delayed because agreed to repairs have not been accomplished, or something as simple as the seller has not physically vacating the property in time.

We hope you have a successful boring move.

In spite of all the issues listed above, most people close and move with a minimal of troubles and issues. We hope this applies to you, but prior planning is so important. Best wishes for a boring move. ☺



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ⁱ https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2012/04/25/00/15/warning-41310__340.png

ⁱⁱ https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2020/06/23/08/03/donate-5331777_960_720.png

ⁱⁱⁱ https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2016/05/31/12/00/donate-1426736__340.png

^{iv} <https://images.pexels.com/photos/5025635/pexels-photo-5025635.jpeg?auto=compress&cs=tinysrgb&w=600>

^v <https://images.freeimages.com/variants/C43gfiyCdxXeYC2wRMKpYquw/f4a36f6589a0e50e702740b15352bc00e4bfaf6f58bd4db850e167794d05993d>